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AN ACT CONCERNING THE USE OF RECYCLED TIRE RUBBER AT MUNICIPAL AND PUBLIC SCHOOL PLAYGROUNDS. BILL 5139

Senator Dante Bartolomeo Representative Diana Urban and Members of the Committee on Children

I am in strong support of House Bill 5139, An Act Concerning The Use of Recycled Tire Rubber at Municipal and Public Playgrounds.

I am a former Director of the Environmental Epidemiology and Occupational Health Section of the Connecticut Department of Health and a founding member of Environment and Human Health, Inc.

(EHHI) is a ten-member, science-based non-profit organization composed of physicians, public health professionals and policy experts. The organization is dedicated to protecting human health from environmental harms. EHHI does not receive any funds from businesses or corporations.

THERE ARE TWO SIMPLE COMMON SENSE FACTUAL OBSERVATIONS:

First:

When Dr. Mattina of the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station in June of 2007 wanted to test whether chemicals are released from crumb rubber she put the crumbs in a vial with deionized water and placed them on the window sill. A few weeks later chemicals were found released into the water. **Crumb rubber is not an inert material but a carrier that releases carcinogens and other chemicals.** Dr. Mattina did further analysis. (see reference)

Second:

When the University of Washington Soccer Goalie coach Amy Griffin found players and recruits with cancer she made a list. There were about 22 players on the list before she alerted the public and the national media, The predominate cancer on the list is lymphoma. The National Cancer Institute maintains a count of the prevalence of each cancer. NCI records about 60 lymphoma cases in every 100,000 people in the age groups of Griffin's list. That is about one case in every 1,500 people. **To have collected 20 cases by chance Griffin would need to talk with 30,000 players. That is not plausible. The rate of lymphomas is clearly elevated in soccer players, especially highly exposed goal keepers.**

It is clear that crumb rubber contains toxic chemicals, that the chemicals are released into the environment and the human body and that people with higher exposures are experiencing cancers.

There are numerous other studies available documenting the hazards from the presence of and exposures to the toxic chemicals from crumb rubber. There is no scientific or other basis for concluding that exposures to carcinogens from crumb rubber on Municipal and Public School Playgrounds or any other place is safe.

The Consultant scientists and Risk Assessors who advocate only a narrow consideration of only evidence in Peer Reviewed scientific publications are wrong. Those consultants need to be read very carefully. They advocate a narrow laboratory research based experimental science that is not protective of children's health. In contrast Medical Institutions such as Mount Sinai and Public Health Scientists urge caution. Those health Scientists must be used for guidance.

The science and common sense strongly supports this necessary bill.

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References: AC005 (8/07) EXAMINATION OF CRUMB RUBBER PRODUCED FROM CRUMB RUBBER TIES, M. J Mattina, M. Isleyen, W. Berger, and S. Ozdemir. Department of Analytical Chemistry, The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station. 123 Huntington Street, P.O. Box 1106 New Haven Connecticut 06504.

Artificial Turf: A Health-Based Consumer Guide. Children's Environmental Health Center Department of Preventive Medicine, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai One Gustave L. Levy Place, Box 1217 New York, NY 10029-6574